(c) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to check the rise of edible oil prices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The comparative wholesale price position of major edible oils in Delhi market as on 05.03.2008 and 05.12.2007 is as follows:

(*Price: Rs./ per quintal*)

Name of Oil	Prices as on 05.03.2008	Prices as on 05.12.2007	Variation
Mustard Oil	8242	5676	2566
Groundnut Oil	11355	11209	146
Vanaspati	7143	5495	1648

Source: Department of Consumer Affairs.

Further, as per available information from trade sources, the wholesale price of RBD Palmolein in Mumbai has gone up from Rs. 4950/- per quintal on 04.12.2007 to Rs. 6550/- per quintal on 04.03.2008.

(c) The steps taken to check the rise in edible oil prices in the country include:

1. Import of oilseeds/edible oils except copra/coconut oil has been allowed on Open General Licence (OGL).
2. During the period beginning from August, 2006 import duties have been reduced. Import duty on crude and refined palm oil/Palmolein has been reduced from 80% to 45% and 90% to 52.5 respectively. Duty on crude and refined sunflower oil reduced from 75% to 40% and 85% to 50% respectively. Duty on crude and refined soyabean oil reduced from 45% to 40%.
3. Crude and Refined edible grade vegetable oils have been exempted from 4% SAD *w.e.f.* 1.3.2007.
4. Mandatory usage of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati has been removed by Order dated 11.02.2008.

Survey of rail routes in Rajasthan

†*132. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail routes in Rajasthan on which survey would be completed by the year 2008;

(b) the number of rail routes in the country particularly in Rajasthan, on which survey has been undertaken in Rail Budget 2007-08; and

(c) the details of the progress made so far in this regard and the target fixed to complete the work where survey has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) 26 Surveys in the State of Rajasthan of rail routes pertaining to new lines, gauge conversions and doublings have been completed in last three years. 6 Surveys are in progress, out of which 3 surveys are likely to be completed by December, 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) 33 Surveys including 2 in Rajasthan were included in Railway Budget 2007-08. Out of that 9 surveys have been completed. The further action on completed projects would be taken based on the decision on the survey reports.

Pending projects for gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

*133. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects which are pending for conversion from meter gauge to broad gauge in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is any delay in executing these projects;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether due to delay in execution of the above projects there was any cost escalation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (e) As on 01.04.2007, 09 gauge conversion projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu were in various stages of progress. The projects are being progressed as per the availability of funds. There has been increase in cost of the projects due to price escalation that has taken place during the implementation phase and also due to change in scope and upgradation of track and signalling standards. The original cost of the projects with the latest anticipated cost is as under:—

Sl. No.	Project	Year of inclusion in the Budget	Length (in Kms)	Original Cost (Rs. in crore)	Latest Anticipated Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal (200 Kms) with extension to Nagapattinam-Velankanni-Tiruturaipundi *via* Tirukkuvalai (43 Kms)	1995-96	243	100	448.30
2.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar	1997-98	357	280	706.85
3.	Thanjavur-Villupuram	1998-99	192	223	362.33
4.	Tiruchchirappalli-Manamadurai	2000-01	150	175	435.50
5.	Villupuram-Katpadi	2000-01	161	175	275.84
6.	Manamadurai-Virudhunagar	2006-07	66.55	97.27	148.32
7.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Pollachi-Coimbatore	2006-07	224.88	343.17	613.22